

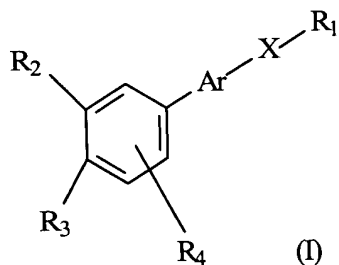
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-32 (Canceled).

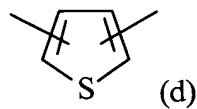
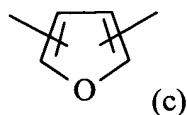
--33. (Previously Presented) A bicyclic aromatic compound, having the general formula (I):



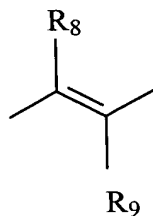
wherein,

- R<sub>1</sub> represents: (i) the -CH<sub>3</sub> radical;  
(ii) the radical -CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>; or  
(iii) the radical -COR<sub>6</sub>;

Ar is a radical of the formula (c) or (d):



- X represents



or



$R_2$  and  $R_3$ , which may be identical or different, represent

(i) a hydrogen atom;  
(ii) an alkyl radical having at least 3 carbon atoms, among which the carbon attached to the phenyl radical is substituted with at least two carbon atoms;

(iii) a radical  $-OR_5$ ;

(iv) a radical  $-SR_5$ ; or

$R_2$  and  $R_3$ , taken together, form with the adjacent aromatic ring a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally substituted with methyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom,

with the proviso that:

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  cannot both be hydrogen;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  cannot both be a radical  $-OR_5$ ;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  cannot both be a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_2$  is hydrogen,  $R_3$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_2$  is a radical  $-OR_5$ ,  $R_3$  cannot be hydrogen or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_2$  is a radical  $-SR_5$ ,  $R_3$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or hydrogen;

when  $R_3$  is hydrogen,  $R_2$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_3$  is a radical  $-OR_5$ ,  $R_2$  cannot be hydrogen or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

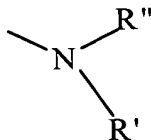
when  $R_3$  is a radical  $-SR_5$ ,  $R_2$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or hydrogen;

$R_4$  and  $R_7$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a radical  $-OR_5$ ,

$R_5$  represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl radical or a radical  $-COR_{10}$

$R_6$  represents:

- (a) a hydrogen atom;
- (b) a lower alkyl radical;
- (c) a radical of formula:



or (d) a radical  $-OR_{11}$

-  $R_8$  and  $R_9$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical,

-  $R_{10}$  represents a lower alkyl radical,

- R<sub>11</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and alkenyl radical, a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl or aralkyl radical, a sugar residue or an amino acid or peptide residue,

- R' and R", which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl radical, a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl radical or an amino acid or sugar residue, or alternatively, taken together form a heterocycle, a salt thereof or an optical or geometrical isomer thereof.

44 34. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 33, selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, alkaline-earth metals, zinc salts and organic amine salts.

35. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 33, selected from the group consisting of:

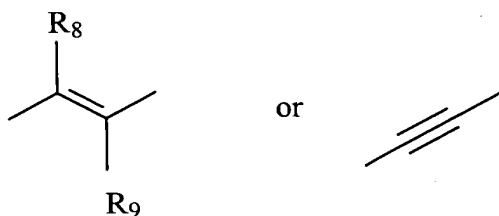
5-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
5-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophenepropiolic acid,  
2-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
4-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
5-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
4-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
4-(5-6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid, and  
5-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiophenepropiolic acid.

36. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 33, having at least one of the following groups:

$R_1$  represents the radical  $-\text{COR}_6$ ;

Ar represents a radical of formula (d);

X represents the radical:



$R_2$  and  $R_3$ , taken together, form with the adjacent aromatic ring a 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally substituted with methyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulfur atom.

37. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 33, wherein Ar is a radical of formula (d).

38. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to Claim 32 in a pharmaceutically acceptable support.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 38, wherein the concentration of the at least one compound is between 0.002% and 5% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

40. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition comprising at least one compound according to Claim 33 in a cosmetically acceptable support.

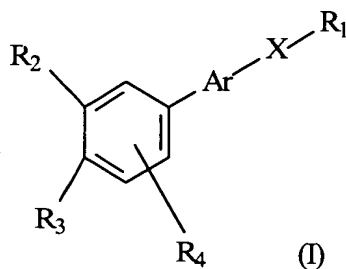
HI 41. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 40, wherein the concentration of the at least one compound is between 0.002% and 5% by weight of the cosmetic composition.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition of Claim 40, wherein the composition is suitable for body or hair hygiene.

43. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 33, wherein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , taken together form with the adjacent aromatic ring a 6-membered ring substituted with methyl groups and being interrupted by an oxygen or sulfur atom.

44. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 33, wherein  $R'$  and  $R''$  taken together form a heterocycle.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or inhibiting symptoms of a keratinization disorder, the method comprising administering an effective amount of a bicyclic aromatic compound having the general formula (I):

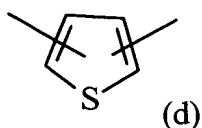
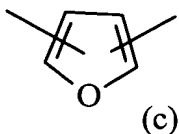


wherein,

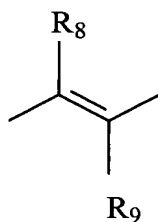
R<sub>1</sub> represents:

- (i) the -CH<sub>3</sub> radical;
- (ii) the radical -CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>; or
- (iii) the radical -COR<sub>6</sub>

Ar is a radical of a formula selected from formulae (c) or (d):



X represents



or



R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, which may be identical or different, represent

- (i) a hydrogen atom;
- (ii) an alkyl radical having at least 3 carbon atoms, among which the carbon attached to the phenyl radical is substituted with at least two carbon atoms;
- (iii) a radical -OR<sub>5</sub>;
- (iv) a radical -SR<sub>5</sub>; or

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, taken together, may form, with the adjacent aromatic ring, a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally substituted with methyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom,

with the proviso that:

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> cannot both be hydrogen;



$R_2$  and  $R_3$  cannot both be a radical- $OR_5$ ;

$R_2$  and  $R_3$  cannot both be a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_2$  is hydrogen,  $R_3$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_2$  is a radical  $-OR_5$ ,  $R_3$  cannot be hydrogen or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_2$  is a radical  $-SR_5$ ,  $R_3$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or hydrogen;

when  $R_3$  is hydrogen,  $R_2$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_3$  is a radical  $-OR_5$ ,  $R_2$  cannot be hydrogen or a radical  $-SR_5$ ;

when  $R_3$  is a radical  $-SR_5$ ,  $R_2$  cannot be a radical  $-OR_5$  or hydrogen;

$R_4$  and  $R_7$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a radical  $-OR_5$ ,

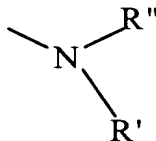
$R_5$  represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl radical or a radical  $-COR_{10}$

$R_6$  represents:

(a) a hydrogen atom;

(b) a lower alkyl radical;

(c) a radical of formula:



or (d) a radical  $-OR_{11}$

$R_8$  and  $R_9$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical,

$R_{10}$  represents a lower alkyl radical,

$R_{11}$  represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and alkenyl radical, a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl or aralkyl radical, a sugar residue or an amino acid or peptide residue,

$R'$  and  $R''$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl radical, a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl radical or an amino acid or sugar residue, or alternatively, taken together form a heterocycle,

a salt thereof or an optical or geometrical isomer thereof.

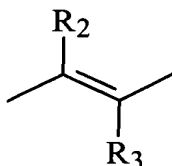
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

5-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
5-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophenepropiolic acid,  
2-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
4-(3-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
5-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
4-(3,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
4-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid, and  
5-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiophenepropiolic acid.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the compound has at least one of the following groups:

$R_1$  represents the radical  $-\text{COR}_6$

X represents the radical



$R_2$  and  $R_3$ , taken together, form, with the adjacent aromatic ring, a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally substituted with methyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the ~~keratinization~~ keratinization disorder is a ~~disorder which has a bearing on cell~~ differentiation and or proliferation disorder.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of common acne, a comedone, apolymorphonuclear leukocyte, rosacea, nodulocystic acne, acne conglobata, senile acne and secondary acne.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of ichthyosis, an ichthyosiform state, Darier's disease, palmoplantar keratoderma, a leucoplasias state, a leucoplasiform state, cutaneous lichen and mucous (buccal) lichen.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the disorder is ~~associated with a keratinization disorder with an inflammatory and/or immunoallergic component~~ disorder.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the disorder is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, psoriatic rheumatism, cutaneous atopy, respiratory atopy and gingival hypertrophy.

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